

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

----- 110042

R 181220Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5807

INFO CINCPAC

COMUSSAG

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 5517

EXDIS

DEPT PASS INFO SECDEF, CJCS

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: MILI, CB

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ON FANK'S MANPOWER PROBLEM

REF: A. PHNOM PENH 2638

B. PHNOM PENH 4205

1. SUMMARY. MEMBERS OF MY STAFF AND I MET WITH PRESIDENT LON NOL AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL THIS MORNING (APRIL 18) TO EXPRESS OUR CONCERN THAT FANK INTERVENTION UNITS ARE NOT BEING GIVEN THE MANPOWER TO MEET THE GROWING ENEMY THREAT IN THE PROVINCES AND TO OUTLINE STEPS WE BELIEVE SHOULD BE TAKEN NOW TO AUGMENT THE GENERAL RESERVE. WE RECOMMENDED IN PARTICULAR THAT MORE MEN BE MOVED MORE QUICKLY FROM HEADQUARTERS ORGANIZATIONS AND TERRITORIAL UNITS TO INTERVENTION BRIGADES, THAT PHNOM PENH WARD CHIEFS WHO HAVE NOT CARRIED OUT THEIR CONSCRIPTION DUTIES BE REPLACED AND THAT THE CITY BEGIN TO DRAFT CIVIL SERVANTS. EACH MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL EXPRESSED GENERAL APPROVAL OF OUR RECOMMENDATIONS, AND THE GROUP ALSO DECIDED TO REPLACE ABLE-BODIED-MEN IN FANK HEADQUARTERS AND THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE WITH UNEMPLOYED CIVIL SERVANTS FROM THE PROVINCES WHO HAVE SOUGHT REFUGE IN PHNOM PENH. THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AGREED TO MEET WITH US AGAIN TO REVIEW PROGRESS ON THE IM-

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PLEMENTATION OF OUR PROPOSALS. END SUMMARY.

2. AT OUR REQUEST GKR EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, COMPOSED OF PRESIDENT LON NOL, HIGH ASSISTANT SIRIK MATAK, PRIME MINISTER LONG BORET AND FANK COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF LIEUTENANT GENERAL SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ, MET WITH CHIEF MEDTC, POLMIL COUNSELOR AND ME THIS MORNING TO REVIEW PROGRESS ON MEETING THE GENERAL RESERVE'S MANPOWER NEEDS. WE PRESENTED OUR ASSESSMENT OF MANPOWER NEEDS IN VIEW OF CHANGING ENEMY THREAT FOLLOWED BY SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING SHIFTING OF PERSONNEL WITHIN FANK AND REINVIGORATING THE CONSCRIPTION/RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN. AFTERWARDS, EACH MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL COMMENTED ON OUR PROPOSALS AND, IN SOME CASES, ADDED A FEW OF THEIR OWN. FOLLOWING IS SYNTHESIS OF VIEWS EXPRESSED.

3. THE PROBLEM. I NOTED THAT, HAVING FAILED IN ITS STRATEGY TO TAKE PHNOM PENH, THE ENEMY NOW SEEMS TO BE CONCENTRATING ITS EFFORTS ON PROVINCIAL CENTERS. ITS AIM IS TO WIN OTHER VICTORIES SUCH AS OUDONG IN ORDER TO REGAIN MOMENTUM AND TO CONVINCE ITS TROOPS, ITS POPULATION AND ITS FOREIGN ALLIES THAT AN EARLY MILITARY VICTORY IS POSSIBLE. IF THE ENEMY IS TO BE FORCED TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE, I ADDED, FANK MUST DENY IT THESE VICTORIES. I NOTED THAT A PROVINCIAL STRATEGY PROVIDES THE ENEMY A NUMBER OF ADVANTAGES OVER A PHNOM PENH STRATEGY INCLUDING SHORTER LOCS, GREATER EASE IN MASSING SUPERIOR FORCES AND MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO OBTAIN SURPRISE. THE GKR MUST, THEREFORE, INCREASE ITS INTERVENTION FORCES. IN THIS RESPECT, I NOTED THAT THE 80TH BRIGADE AND THE 45TH BRIGADE OPERATED AT OUDONG WITH ONLY 75PCT AND 40 PCT RESPECTIVELY OF THEIR AUTHORIZED STRENGTH AND THAT THE 20TH AND 12TH BRIGADES IN KAMPOT HAVE ONLY ONE-THIRD OF THEIR AUTHORIZED STRENGTH. LIKE THESE FANK BRIGADES, THE ENEMY UNITS AT KAMPOT AND OUDONG ARE ALSO VETERANS OF THE PHNOM PENH FIGHTING BUT SEEM TO HAVE BEEN MORE SUCCESSFUL IN RE-CUPERATING THEIR STRENGTH. ALL MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL SUBSEQUENTLY INDICATED GENERAL ACCEPTANCE OF THIS ASSESSMENT.

4. MAKING BETTER USE OF FANK PERSONNEL. THE MOST RAPID RESPONSE TO THIS VERY PRESSING PROBLEM, I CONTINUED, IS TO  
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MOVE ABLE-BODIED SOLDIERS IN NON-COMBAT JOBS TO THE INTERVENTION BRIGADES. I NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE MARSHAL IN THIS REGARD (REF A) DO NOT SEEM TO HAVE BEEN WELL IMPLEMENTED AND THAT OF THE 9,000 MEN TO BE MOVED ONLY 380 HAVE ACTUALLY ARRIVED AT THEIR UNITS.  
A. I APPLAUDED THE MARSHAL'S ORDER THAT EACH OF 18 MILITARY SUBDIVISIONS SUPPLY ONE COMPANY PER MONTH TO THE GENERAL RESERVE AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THESE COMPANIES WOULD

BE CHOSEN BY FANK HEADQUARTERS AND THAT AUTHORIZATION TO RECRUIT REPLACEMENTS WILL BE PROMPTLY ISSUED TO THE REGIONS. THE MARSHAL SUBSEQUENTLY STATED THAT THE REGIONS HAVE THUS FAR SENT GOOD COMPANIES TO PHNOM PENH ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE NOT ALWAYS HAD THEIR FULL COMPLEMENT. HE ADDED THAT HE WOULD ASK FANK HEADQUARTERS TO AUTHORIZE CERTAIN PROVINCES RICH IN MEN SUCH AS BATTAMBANG, KOMPONG THOM, TAKEO, KOMPONG SOM AND KOMPONG CHHNANG TO RECRUIT ADDITIONAL MEN, WHO AFTER A TWO OR THREE MONTH SHAKEDOWN PERIOD WOULD BE ADDED TO THE GENERAL RESERVE. HE NOTED THAT HE HAD ALREADY ASKED BATTAMBANG TO RAISE 400 MEN AND KOMPONG CHHNANH FOUR BATTALIONS IN ADDITION TO THEIR QUOTA OF ONE COMPANY PER MONTH.

B. I SUGGESTED THAT THE PHNOM PENH SPECIAL MILITARY REGION (PPSMR) SHOULD CONTRIBUTE MORE MEN TO THE GENERAL RESERVE THAN OTHER REGIONS BECAUSE IT HAS RECEIVED FROM THE CONSCRIPTION/RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN FAR MORE MEN (1,300) THAN ITS FEW INTERVENTION BATTALIONS ENTITLES IT AND BECUASE THE FOCUS OF ENEMY ACTIVITIES IS NOW IN THE PROVINCES. SPECIFICALLY, I ASKED THAT SIX MORE UNDERSTENGTH BATTALIONS AS WELL AS THE VIHEAR SUOR SUBDIVISION HEADQUARTERS BE DIS-SOLVED AND THEIR MEN SENT TO INTERVENTION BRIGADES ( ONLY BOUR BATTALIONS HAVE THUS FAR BEEN DISBANDED) AND THAT THE PPSMR ACCELERATE THE REASSIGNMENT OF 20PCT OF ITS PERSONNEL TO THE GENERAL RESERVE. IMPLYING GENERAL ACCEPTANCE OF THESE RECOMMENDATIONS, LON NOL NOTED THAT HE RECENTLY ASKED THE PPSMR TO FURNISH 200 MEN FOR THE SECOND DIVISION.

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECDEF, CJCS.

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

----- 114837

R 181220Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5808

INFO CINCPAC

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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 5517

EXDIS

C. I EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT RALLIERS AND KHMER REFUGEES IN SOUTH VIET NAM WHO ARE RECRUITED FOR FANK BE SENT VIA TRAINING CENTERS TO GENERAL RESERVE UNITS. THE MARSHAL, WHO IS THE PRIME OFFENDER IN THIS FIELD, DID NOT COMMENT ON THIS RECOMMENDATION OTHER THAN TO INDICATE THAT SMALL GROUPS OF RALLIERS AHD ASSUMED POSITIONS IN KOMPONG SPEU AND TAKHMAU WHICH RELIEVED INTERVENTION TROOPS FROM STATIC POSITIONS.

D. I NOTED THAT FANK HEADQUARTERS SHOULD REASSIGN OVER 3,000 MEN TO INTERVENTION BRIGADES IN ORDER TO REDUCE ITS PERSONNEL TO THE NUMBER AUTHORIZED. THE MARSHAL RECOMMENDED THAT 3,000 CIVIL SERVANTS WHO HAVE COME TO PHNOM PENH FROM ENEMY OCCUPIED TERRITORY AND WHO ARE PRESENTLY UNEMPLOYED SHOULD RELIEVE MILITARY PERSONNEL IN FANK HEADQUARTERS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE. OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL ENDORSED THIS PROPOSAL, AND GENERAL SOSTHENE PROMISED TO FURNISH THE PRIME MINISTER WITH A LIST OF SKILLS REQUIRED. ARGUING THAT THERE WOULD BE LITTLE DIFFICULTY IN PERSUADING CIVIL SERVANTS TO TAKE THESE JOBS, LONG BORET SUCCEEDED IN TURNING ASIDE LON NOL'S PROPOSAL THAT THEY BE GIVEN A SPECIAL MONTHLY BONUS OF 3,000 RIELS. E. THE MARSHAL ASKED GENERAL SOSTHENE TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF REPLACING ABLE-BODIED SECURITY GUARDS OF HIGH LEVEL OFFICIALS WITH SOLDIERS WITH FORMER COMBAT DUTY.

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5. CONSCRIPTION. CONGRATULATING THE GOVERNMENT ON BUILDING A COMPLETE CONSCRIPTION SYSTEM FROM SCRATCH AND ON CONDUCTING A SUCCESSFUL CENSUS OF THE AVAILABLE MANPOWER POOL, I SUGGESTED THAT THE PROBLEM IS NOT TO CHANGE THE SYSTEM, WHICH IS NOW PRODUCING ONLY A THIRD OF THE MEN REQUIRED, BUT TO PERFECT IT BY SEEING THAT ALL PERFORM THE DUTIES ASSIGNED THEM. SOSTHENE STATED THAT HE PLANNED TO MAKE NO CHANGES IN THE CONSCRIPTION ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE.

A. I NOTED THAT CERTAIN CITY WARDS HAVE PRODUCED FAR FEWER CONSCRIPTS THAN THEY SHOULD CONSIDERING THE SIZE OF THEIR MANPOWER POOLS AND SUGGESTED THAT THEIR CHIEFS MIGHT BE REPLACED. THE PRIME MINISTER SPECIFICALLY ENDORSED THIS PROPOSAL DURING THE COURSE OF HIS REMARKS LATER IN THE MEETING.

B. I STRESSED THE NEED TO DEMONSTRATE THROUGH THE ACTIVITIES OF THE MIXED SECURITY TEAMS THAT CONSCRIPTION IS BEING RIGOROUSLY AND FAIRLY ENFORCED. IF THIS IS DONE, THE NUMBER OF MEN ANSWERING DRAFT SUMMONS SHOULD RISE WELL ABOVE THE CURRENT 33PCT.

C. I ALSO POINTED OUT THE NEED TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF

DEFERRALS (NOW RUNNING AT 75PCT OF THOSE REPORTING TO THE DRAFT BOARDS) IN PART BY CONVENING QUICKLY THE INTERMINISTERIAL COMMITTEE CHARGED WITH ESTABLISHING CRITERIA FOR SKILLED WORKERS, WHO COMPROSIE MOST OF THOSE DEFERRED. THENQARSHAL REMINDED THE PRIME MINISTER AT THE END OF THE MEETING TO TAKE THIS ACTION.

D. IF CRITERIA FOR EXEMPTING CIVIL SERVANTS IS NOT SOON ESTABLISHED, I SAID WE WOULD SUPPORT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE CHIEF OF THE MIXED CONSCRIPTION STAFF BG YONG YOC HANG THAT EACH MINISTRY BE REQUIRED TO FURNISH A CERTAIN PERCENTAGE OF ITS PERSONNEL TO THE ARMY. THE PRIME MINISTER SPECIFICALLY ENDORSED THIS POINT.

E. FINALLY, I SUGGESTED THAT A DECREE CONFIDING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONSCRIPTION/RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN TO GENERAL SOSTHENE BE PROMULGATED IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WILL GIVE GENERAL SOSTHENE THEIR FULL SUPPORT, NOTING THAT HE WILL HAVE OURS. THE PRIME MINISTER STATED THAT HE WILL HAVE A DRAFT DECREE ON THE PRESIDENT'S DESK TOMORROW (APRIL 19).

F. SIRIK MATAK SPOKE AT SOME LINGTH ON THE NEED OF REGENERATING ENTHUSIASM WITHIN THE POPULATION SO THAT KHMER  
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ONCE AGAIN WILL BE WILLING TO SERVE IN THE ARMY. NOTING IN PARTICULAR THAT THE ARMY MUST SHOW ITSELF TO BE CLEAN, HE REFERRED TO THE NEED TO PICK UP SOLDIERS LOITERING IN THE CITY AND TO CREATE "RECONDITIONING CENTERS" IN EACH MILITARY REGION TO HOUSE UNITS RETURNING FROM OPERATIONS SO THAT THEIR TROOPS STRENGTH CAN BE ACCURATELY MEASURED AND FILLERS BROUGHT IN. SIRIK MATAK ALSO REFERRED TO THE NEED TO CONSTRUCT BARRACKS. THE MARSHAL AGREED THAT SIRIK MATAK'S PROPOSALS SHOULD BE STUDIED. SOSTHENE POINTED OUT THAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN FANK'S MANAGEMENT PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS MILITARY PAY AND APPEALED FOR THE ASSISTANCE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN MOUTING A BIG CAMPAIGN TO REVIVE PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE ARMY.

G. AT THE END OF THE MEETING WE OFFERED TO SUPPLY THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL WITH A LIST OF THE ACTIONS AGREED UPON (THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE HAS SINCE REQUESTED THE COMPLETE TEXT OF MY REMARKS) AND OBTAINED THEIR APPROVAL FOR A SUBSEQUENT MEETING TO DISCUSS PROGRESS REGISTERED TOWARD THESE GOALS.

6. COMMENT: I BELIEVE WE OBTAINED FROM THIS MEETING THE RESULT WE DESIRED WHICH WAS A COMMITMENT FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL BOTH INDIVIDUALLY AND AS A GROUP TO THE PRINCIPAL MEASURES WE THINK NECESSARY TO INCREASE GENERAL RESERVE FORCES. OUR IMPRESSION FROM THIS INITIAL MEETING IS THAT THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IS WORKING WELL AS A COLLEGIAL DECISION-MAKING BODY AND WILL HELP US MOVE TOWARD

MANPOWER GOALS. FOLLOW UP WILL, OF COURSE, BE REQUIRED AT  
LOWER ECHELONS TO OBTAIN IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE DECISIONS,  
AND WE WILL REQUEST OTHER SESSIONS WITH THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
WHEN BELIEVED APPROPRIATE.  
DEAN

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECDEF,CJCS.

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** MILI, CB, FANK  
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**Type:** TE  
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